

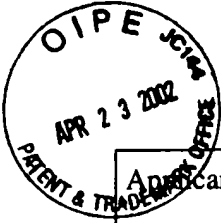
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PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Zhao, et al.

Serial No.: 09/469,485 - Case No.: 20369Y

Filed: December 22, 1999

For: IMPROVED RECOMBINANT HEPATITIS B  
SURFACE ANTIGEN

Art Unit:  
1648

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Examiner:  
Foley, S. A.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 13, 2002. Applicant requests entry of any amendments presented herein. Applicant also requests reexamination and reconsideration of this application on the merits in view of any amendments and the remarks presented herein.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED  
WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN  
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MERCK & CO., INC.

BY: Nancy York DATE: 4/15/02 (4)